

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The issue has never been whether or not our troops could win a war. They are the finest fighting men and women in the world, and they can win a war.

The issue is the mismanagement of this administration, their inability to win the peace. The mismanagement of our war is not the fault of our troops. It starts with the Secretary of Defense who is out of the loop. It is a failure of candor with people in this Congress who have to rely on the *The New Yorker* magazine to find out things that the Administration should have provided to our committees. It is a failure of our committees to move forward to deal with the investigations of problems of supply, of inappropriate activities on the part of contractors, of why there has been a failure of command that has produced the horrific pictures that put not just our troops at risk but put at risk any American traveling in the Middle East.

I think it is time for my colleagues to get a grip and get back to the business that we should, as Members of Congress, fulfill our responsibilities, not try to play politics.

STAND UP FOR AMERICA

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed. I am disturbed by the Democrats who would suggest that this war in Iraq is unwinnable. I reject that premise. Nothing could be further from the truth. We must continue to fight terrorism wherever it exists in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the security of our Nation depends upon stabilizing Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East and bringing peace and freedom to that region of the world. It is time to stand up for America. It is time to stand firm for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed to live in the greatest Nation on Earth.

God bless America.

RUMSFELD MUST GO

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Secretary Powell came before the Congressional Black Caucus yesterday. Every Member was there. They asked him, Are you going to ask for more money? He said, There is no need for more money.

Within 2 hours, the President of the United States came on and said, We need \$25 billion more money.

Even the Secretary of State is left out of the loop. This government has

no plan; and the fact that a Member has finally stood up and said what everybody knows, the emperor has no clothes, it is about time somebody said that.

My newspaper, the lead editorial this morning is "Rumsfeld Must Go." He laid our people out there in danger. There is a study out of the Army that says that a quarter of the people who have died would not have died if they had provided the proper equipment.

Now, this was a war of choice. We did not have to go. Nobody was attacking us. It is clear we were not in danger.

□ 1015

They chose a day to go and so they went, whether they were ready or not. They did not care about the troops. Our troops are being badly used by rotten leadership. They should go.

SADNESS OVER COMMENTS ON IRAQ WAR

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning it is with a sense of profound sadness that I address the House of Representatives, and usually it is not so. I cherish the time that I have been able to spend here representing my District.

Mr. Speaker, my son is a member of the Air National Guard of the 136th Wing out of the old Carswell Air Force Base in Dallas. He is a staff sergeant, but I picked up the paper this morning like so many of my friends, and we see that the leaders on the other side have proclaimed the war unwinnable, and I think of all of the brave young men and women that I saw when I was in Iraq two times in the past year, and I cannot help but feel a profound sense of sadness that they feel that their leaders have abandoned them.

Now, we are all outraged and saddened by the photos of mistreatment of the Iraqi prisoners we have seen on our television screens. The abusers will be punished. The commanding officers will likely have their careers in ruins, but I just want to caution the leaders on the other side, indeed the candidates who are running for the highest office in this land, that this response is reminiscent of the response that a candidate named KERRY, 30 years ago had before the Senate committee where he condemned all of our troops in Vietnam.

This is not the case of our brave men and women over in Iraq today.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). For what purpose does the gentleman from California rise?

Mr. FILNER. Do the rules of the House allow personal reference to a

candidate running for the presidency of the United States?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members may not personally attack a presumptively nominated candidate but may criticize his policies.

Mr. FILNER. The candidate was personally attacked on this floor, and I ask for his words to be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

□ 1030

The Clerk read as follows:

"Now we are all outraged and saddened by the photos of mistreatment of the Iraqi prisoners we have seen on our television screens. The abusers will be punished. The commanding officers will likely have their careers in ruins, but I just want to caution the leaders on the other side, indeed candidates who are running for the highest office in this land, that this response is reminiscent of the response that a candidate named KERRY 30 years ago had before the Senate committee where he condemned all of our troops in Vietnam. This is not the case of our brave men and women over in Iraq today."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). In the opinion of the Chair, while personal attacks on a presumptive candidate are not in order, general references to past statements or positions by such a candidate are not, as with the reported choice of words, necessarily prohibited under the rules.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I am still not sure where that line is. If I were to say that the Republican candidate for President misled us into this war, is that crossing the line?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will state these guidelines.

As the Chair stated on March 11 and April 22, 2004, the standards of decorum in debate applicable to the President are applied against any apparent nominee for that office. Thus, although remarks in debate may include criticism of such a candidate's official positions as a candidate, it is a breach of order to refer to the candidate in terms personally offensive, whether by actual accusation or by mere insinuation.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

I am not going to challenge the ruling of the Chair; but if the candidate of the Democratic Party is accused of condemning our troops, I find that crossing the line, inappropriate and wrong. We are allowed, the candidate is allowed at Senate hearings to make his voice known about the war in Vietnam. He did not condemn the troops. I am upset with the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order has been overruled.

HEARINGS ON ABUSE

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the House should hold hearings on the abuses in the Iraqi prisons. The most powerful military machine that the world has ever seen quickly won the hot war in Iraq. It is the occupation of Iraq that is unwinnable. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is on target with his analysis. The incompetent, improvised occupation of Iraq, guided by the Department of Defense, is unwinnable. Our troops in Iraq have been betrayed by the blundering of this administration and their top command.

An unqualified Secretary Rumsfeld improvising this occupation has thrown untrained soldiers into the role of prison guards. We owe it to our soldiers in the ranks to have a full investigation, to openly let the American people see exactly what happened. Yes, this is an un-American approach, un-American activity, and it probably involves only a few, but that few operate under top command.

Mr. Speaker, let us have a full investigation. The top command must accept responsibility. Hearings will reveal this truth. Let us have hearings as soon as possible.

STANDING BY OUR TROOPS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that with troops in the field, the Democrats are now going out sending a signal this war is unwinnable. With young men in the hospital, wounded, amputees, they are saying this war is unwinnable. With families and Americans mourning the dead, the Democrats are saying this war is unwinnable. We often hear from Democrats, Well, I support the troops, but I am against the war.

Mr. Speaker, I have never understood that. I have the honor of representing the Third Infantry Division and five military installations in my district, and that just does not sell to the soldiers in the field that, well, I support you individually, but what you are doing is wrong and I am against it.

This is not the time for our country to be sending mixed signals abroad that we are a divided country and that some of us want to cut and run. The best thing we can do to honor those who are wounded, to honor those who have lost their lives and their family and to stand beside the nearly 200,000 troops we have in Iraq and Afghanistan is say, You are doing the right thing. This cause is noble and it is winnable. We stand united behind you. Even though it is an election year, America comes first.

WHO HAS LET OUR TROOPS DOWN?

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman says we do not support our troops. The gentleman says we want to cut and run. The gentleman says we have let our troops down.

I will tell Members who have let our troops down: the administration that misled us into this war and did not tell us the truth, an administration that is incompetent, that does not provide the body armor for our troops, nor the armored cars. We have been told 25 percent of the casualties would have been prevented if this administration had been competent.

I will tell Members who has let our troops down: those who did not instruct prison guards in the Geneva Convention and who led young people, brave young men and women, to the abuse of prisoners and led to our embarrassment worldwide. That is who is letting our troops down: an administration that has no plan for the peace. We have no idea what we are doing there or how to get out. That is who is letting our troops down. That is who is not supporting our troops. I yield the balance of responsibility to this administration.

U.S. OIL PRODUCTION

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, NPR News this morning had a report about why gas prices are now over \$2 a gallon in some States and headed higher everywhere. The reporter explained that while demand has gone up, as everyone has known it would for many years, capacity has gone way down.

He said due to environmental restrictions, no new refineries have been built in this country for more than 20 years, and the number of refineries in California has decreased from 37 to 13. Also, radical environmentalists have successfully fought and stopped oil production in the frozen tundra of Alaska and most other places where it can be safely and environmentally and economically done in the U.S. Environmental extremists almost always come from wealthy, or at least very upper-income, families; but they are really hurting the poor and the lower income and working people of this country, and even our national security, by shutting down so much oil production and refining here and making us overly dependent on foreign oil that is being sold at rip-off prices.

□ 1045

REGARDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my good friend from Georgia how many of the military families has he engaged. How many has he asked why there is a blackout on allowing America to mourn with them as their loved ones' flagged-draped coffins come home to America. How many administration officials have deigned to go to the funeral and to give to the family some comfort?

I know military families. They want this war to end with dignity, yes; but they want some people to be responsible for the travesty of what is going on. And so I ask in light of the fact that we want to blame the troops because of what happened in the prison, I do not want to blame them. They are young. They are 19, 20, 21. I demand for there to be some heads to roll. And Secretary Rumsfeld is the one that needs to roll along with his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz.

I ask the Speaker of the House to demand an open session here on the floor of the House for Secretary Rumsfeld to come and tell us why he was hiding reports for 2 months, why no one knew about the reports, and why these kinds of heinous and ridiculous acts are going on. We want peace over war, but this administration went to war with untruth. Now it is time for people like Secretary Rumsfeld to wash his hands of the tragedy of this and resign. This is the time that we should start anew.

MISTREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the one bipartisan thing that we can all agree on today that we will address in a resolution today is that the conduct which we have all witnessed in pictures spread around the world by a few misguided and perhaps sadistic and criminally accountable young men and women in charge of prisoners of war was wrong. There is no debate on that. There is no debate outside the American military. There is no debate inside the Congress that this was wrong.

But I do believe it is important, Mr. Speaker, for the American people to understand that every soldier is instructed that this is unacceptable. Every officer is trained that this is unacceptable. From my experience both as an enlisted man and as an officer, the military will see that these individuals who were instructed that this was not acceptable and then broke the regulations will be punished. This Congress will oversee that. That is a word that the people of the Arab world need to understand, that the people of Iraq need to understand. Things have changed. This Congress will not tolerate this behavior.